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REASONS FOR NEW COUNTY OF PINELLAS

Editor Straub Tells About The Proposed New County and Gives its Claims to Separate County Government.

There was a pronounced feeling in the last legislature that the Pinellas County people did not get a square deal. This feeling has reached the Legislature of 1909. Editor Straub of the St. Petersburg Times, who is here in behalf of the New Pinellas County bill, was invited to give his case to the Sun. Mr. Straub said:

"The Pinellas county bill situation is a peculiar one, in that not one word has been said, will be said, or can be said against its merits. There is not a well informed and fair minded citizen of all Hillsborough county who will deny that the bill ought to pass; some of them just don't want it to, is all that is or can be said in opposition.

"There are twelve thousand intelligent and enterprising people on that beauty spot of Florida, Pinellas peninsula, with property of an assessed valuation of two and a half millions of dollars, and by an overwhelming majority they claim and demand the right of home rule, of self government. And in their demand for this right they do not in the least interfere with any legitimate material interest of the rest of the county, which in this matter means the city of Tampa. They have even drawn their proposed boundary line so as to leave Egmont and Mullet Keys, which are naturally a part of Pinellas peninsula, to Tampa, as these keys control the port of Tampa and we concede to Tampa's great shipping interests the right of control of the port.

"Our position is taken on the solid rock of Democratic principle of local rule in matters not interfering with others and we need no further nor better argument for our cause.

"But there are plenty of others. Hillsborough county is divided already. Nature makes no mistakes, and when she created great Tampa Bay she could not have intended the lands of both sides of it to be in the same county. Political agencies manifestly interfered with the plan when they undertook to tie them together, and we merely want that mistake corrected. Nature was completely and irrevocably divided us, and we only ask the legislature to ratify what is already and forever done.

"The hardship imposed upon our people in compelling them to transact their county business in Tampa is nothing short of an outrage. Tarpon Springs people have to pile out of bed before day and can get back home only late at night, after a sixty-four mile journey by train and forty-four by steamboat, and then with only three business hours at the county seat. If hard roads were built around the bay—which we have paid taxes enough to build several times over but have never gotten, and all promises to the contrary are never likely to get until we build them ourselves—the trip would still be impossible in a day for many of our people except automobile owners. The distance, time and expense are no greater to Manatee county. Bradentown might just as rightfully and conveniently to us be our county seat as Tampa.

"Our interests are very different from Tampa's, and we cannot make public improvements along our own lines and in our own way when ruled by Tampa.

"It is only fair to Tampa at large, however, to say that hosts of her best people, including heaviest taxpayers and most prominent business men, readily and openly concede our right to the self government we ask. But the political machinery of Hillsborough in vast, and so are the perquisites, and the politicians and their political friends want them all, and then some; and therefore various and sundry 'interests' that from time to time want to 'use' Pinellas' large tax roll and poll list for various and sundry catspaw purposes of their own. And there you are. These purposes may or may not be praiseworthy, but in all cases they completely ignore the rights of the people of Pinellas in the premises.

"Some of these Tampa 'interests' have tried to put forward the plea that county division was defeated by the voters at the polls in the 1908 first primary when F. A. Wood of St. Petersburg, running for the state senate on a division

WAILES ENABLING ACT

INDEFINITELY POSTPONED

Mr. Bryan Says He Can't Come—College Girls Brighten the Scene.

Dull indeed is that day in the Senate when the calendar shows no "Special Order."

Mr. Harris' Senate Bill No. 190:

"A bill to be entitled an act to permit and authorize suits against the State of Florida in certain cases; and directing the court or the Judge thereof, under specified conditions, to join certain persons as plaintiffs.

"Committee on Judiciary A report favorably with amendments."

held the fore at the morning session yesterday. This seemingly innocent bill allows S. I. Wailes and Letitia Beard to bring suit against the State for their claim for collection of Indian War claims.

A long debate followed joined in by Senators Cone, Williams, Johnson, McCloud, Miller, and Crill.

The bill was indefinitely postponed by vote of 15 to 13.

Fourteen new bills were introduced, helping to swell the already full calendar.

The Governor sent in a message inclosing a letter to him from the Hon. William Jennings Bryan, regretting his inability to come to Florida during the meeting of the legislature, on account of previous engagements, and in the letter touched on desirable legislation favoring the initiative and referendum, regulation of corporations, and bank guaranty deposits.

Senator Harris made the speech of the morning in support of Senate Bill 190. He admitted that the bill had but one case in mind, and that was the S. I. Wailes case. He showed that Wailes and the Beard estate were either entitled to the 15 per cent they claimed or to nothing. He showed that the legislature had no authority to make them a present, which was what the appropriation meant. He believed in allowing them to go before the courts and let the jury pass on it as to "whether he had a contract, did he perform the service and how much is he entitled to under the contract."

At this time the Dean of the Florida Female College marshaled in the Civil Government Class of that institution numbering some fifty girls. While the influx of charming femininity were being seated wagers were even in the lobby as to whether Senators Broome or Miller would first get the floor.

The Millerites won.

Senator Broome caught the president's eye, and the college girls were not deprived of what it was well worth the walk to hear—one of the Orator from Gadsden's best efforts.

platform, was defeated, and I see by the papers that a protest against our bill based on an assertion of this kind is to come up here from Tampa.

"Such a statement is nonsense, and worse—it is a positive untruth. Mind you, our people of Pinellas contend that even if every voter of Hillsborough county outside of Pinellas peninsula had voted against division it would have no bearing whatsoever on the right or wrong of our cause; for it is our business, and ours only, so long as we are not seeking to interfere with the business and rights of others. But the voters of Hillsborough county, of Tampa itself, have not voted against division. Very likely they would, if the issue were clearly put, but they have not.

"Mr. Wood was not defeated because he was for or against division but because he was not a Tampa man; for by an unwritten law of many years standing the senator belongs to Tampa. George Washington on earth, or any platform whatsoever, could not be elected senator from Hillsborough if he did not live in Tampa.

"Robert McNamee for the senate and B. Wells and C. C. Wilder for the house were the only out-and-out anti-divi-

TROUBLES OF A SPEAKERLESS HOUSE

Unaccountable Absence of Presiding Officer Places House in Parliamentary Tangle.

Nine o'clock was the hour set for the meeting of the House yesterday morning, but up to that hour the Speaker had not appeared.

Half past nine came and went and still no Speaker.

Everybody was asking everybody else "What's the matter?"

Had the Speaker been kidnapped? Had he fallen among the cohorts of evil? Or had he merely lingered overtime in the arms of Morpheus—an excusable slip-up under the present Legislative pressure?

Finally, the anxiety at delay becoming further unbearable, Mr. Stokes, of Escambia, as Speaker pro tem., called the House to order, and routine work began.

But Mr. Roberson of Suwanee was not satisfied with the situation, and raised the point of order that the proceedings were illegal in the absence of the Speaker, because, the House had not elected a Speaker pro tem., as the law provided.

Mr. Stokes did not seem willing to assume entire responsibility for the unusual condition, so the lawyer members put their noggins together to unravel the tangle, while business took a further surcease from strenuosity.

Mr. Wells, of Leon, was first to recover from the shock, and put a motion to elect a Speaker pro tem.

The motion prevailed, and Mr. Stokes was elected.

At this point the truant Speaker's beaming countenance shed its rays over the House and put the quietus on further disturbance for the day.

Mr. Speaker explained that he had been up all night nursing the Jacksonville charter bill, and his tired eyelids refused to lift at the accustomed hour.

The House voted unanimous thanks to Mr. Roberson for his point of order, with Mr. Carter calling loudly for a cessation of foolishness and getting down to business.

An amendment to the narcotics bill to include coca-cola was withdrawn and the bill was saved from the trash heap.

The osteopath bill which had passed the Senate, also passed the House. Bone-rubbers glad, pill-rollers sad.

sion candidates for the legislature. They openly guaranteed the people of Hillsborough county on the stump that if elected they would positively kill the division movement.

They were the only candidates that took any such position or made any such statements. And they were defeated. We can just as sensibly and truthfully assert that their defeat was a victory for division as our opponents can assert that Wood's defeat was a defeat for division.

"Neither assertion would be true. The TRUTH is that PROHIBITION was the ONLY issue voted upon by the COUNTY AT LARGE; and that DIVISION was the ONLY issue voted upon by PINELLAS PENINSULA. And Pinellas cast its almost solid vote AGAINST McNamee, Wells and Wilder, and DEFEATED THEM, because they were the avowed enemies of PINELLAS and pledged to kill our bill; and they cast their almost solid vote FOR McMullen, Pattishall and Taylor, and ELECTED THEM, because they were the avowed friends of Pinellas and were pledged to give us a square deal. That is the full and exact truth of the situation, and no twists, turns, tricks or bluffs of any Tampa interests can change it one particle.

"And this square deal promised us by the legislative delegation from Hillsborough that the votes of Pinellas elected is all we ask. We have not sought, and do not seek, in any way to embarrass, importune or crowd these gentlemen; according to these newspaper reports these Tampa 'interests' do. We are willing to accept and work to the campaign pledges; these Tampa 'interests' are not.

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